

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

## District Two

October 2010 Edition

### Welcome!

As your District Two representative on the Howard County Council, it is a pleasure to reach out and notify my constituents on informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

**The County Council Offices have moved to the newly renovated George Howard Building!** Beginning **Monday, September 20, 2010** residents may visit our permanent office located at 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City, MD.

I have included in this newsletter details on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or participation which are included at the end of this edition.

Please continue to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

### Inside this issue:

Welcome!	1
Men's Health Fair 2010	1
Heritage Day	2
Choose Civility Symposium	3
Surviving the Recession Series	4
50+ Expo	5
OMHS Craft Fair	5
Deer Management Program	6
Economic Indicators in Howard County	7
Financial Assistance Corner	9

### Howard County's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Men's Health & Wellness Fair!

This year will mark our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Men's Health & Wellness Fair sponsored by Council Member Calvin Ball, Howard County Health Department and Honorary Co-Host Congressman Elijah Cummings. Join us on **Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 11:00am-3:00pm** at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Road, Columbia, MD. Our goal is to promote healthy lifestyles, bring awareness of health related issues for men and provide prevention and detection opportunities for our attendees.

To help participants design a road map to a healthy way of life, our exhibitors will be offering **FREE** health screenings, healthy food samples, fitness demonstrations, resources on creating and managing a healthy lifestyle and much, much more! Exhibitor space may still be available. For details, contact **Kimberly Pruim** at 410-313-2001 or email [kpruim@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kpruim@howardcountymd.gov).

### Save A Life: Put the Cell Phone Down!

Maryland's new Cell Phone Law will take effect **Friday, October 1, 2010**. This new law prohibits all drivers in Maryland from using hand-held cell phones while operating a motor vehicle on a street or highway. Drivers under 18 yrs already are prohibited from using cell phones at all while driving.

Phone calls placed to 9-1-1, ambulance, hospital, fire, or law enforcement agencies are allowed, as are calls made by emergency and law enforcement personnel.

For more information, visit [www.ChooseSafetyForLife.com](http://www.ChooseSafetyForLife.com).

### Thank You for Your Patience!

A construction project to create a bio-retention "facility" on 3 newly constructed islands in the main parking lot at the Thomas B. Dorsey Bldg on Bendix Rd is currently underway. A portion of the north parking lot will be closed during construction but will not impact traffic flow. Weather permitting; this project should be complete by mid-October.

## Make Your Voice Count and Avoid Lines!

Early voting for the General Election will begin **Friday, October 22, 2010** and run through **October 28, 2010**. Early voting sites include Ridgely's Run Community Center, The Bain Center and The Ellicott City Senior Center. For more info, call **410-313-5820** or visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/BOE/BOE\\_earlyvoting.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/BOE/BOE_earlyvoting.htm).

## Discover Local History!

On **Sunday, October 3, 2010** you are invited to discover our local history at Heritage Day. Explore what life might have been like on antebellum Howard County farms at Woodlawn Slave Quarters from **1 to 4pm, 9258 Bendix Road**. The Columbia Association, in partnership with the Howard County Center for African American Culture, is opening the restored Slave Quarters and highlighting the history of area enslaved African-Americans. This event is part of Howard County's Farm-City Celebration.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the stone building which is not normally open to the public. While there is no hard historical evidence to identify the individuals who may have lived in the quarters, the unnamed slaves who performed the labor at Woodlawn will be commemorated through music and a traditional libation ceremony.

For more information, contact **Barbara Kellner** at [Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.com](mailto:Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.com) or **410-715-3103**.

## Open Enrollment for Moderate Incoming Housing Unit Program!

Howard County Housing will begin accepting applications for the October enrollment period for the County's Moderate Incoming Housing Unit (MIHU) beginning **Friday, October 1, 2010**. The current enrollment period will end **Friday, October 29, 2010**.

As you may know, an inclusionary zoning program, MIHU requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent some of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income. The program offers quality new homes at reduced sale prices and rental rates to eligible families.

Interested persons should visit Housing's website at [www.howardcountymd.gov/DH/DH\\_HomePage.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DH/DH_HomePage.htm) or call Howard County Housing at **410-313-6318**.

## Community Law 101!

Become an active voice and create strong connections in your community! The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) in partnership with the Community Law Center, the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), and the University of Baltimore (UB) will host a FREE regional training. This session will provide community leaders with necessary legal resources to improve public safety throughout the State of Maryland.

On **Thursday, October 7, 2010**, Community Law 101 training will be held at the **Community College of Baltimore County** from **5pm-8pm**. This date is reserved for all Maryland residents *outside* of Baltimore City.

Community Law 101 will focus on the following areas:

- Organizing and Planning an Effective Strategy for Community Revitalization
- Finding and Negotiating with Property and Business Owners
- Nuisance Abatement Strategies to Combat Drugs, Trash and Prostitution

Beverages will be provided. Thursday, September 30, 2010 is the deadline to register. For more information, call **Colin Becker** at **410-821-2828** or email [Colin@goccp-state-md.org](mailto:Colin@goccp-state-md.org). To complete the registration form, visit [www.goccp.maryland.gov/documents/Community-Law-Invite.pdf](http://www.goccp.maryland.gov/documents/Community-Law-Invite.pdf)

## Learn How to do Business with Our MD State Government!

Interested in procurement opportunities with the Maryland State Government? Join us on **Thursday, October 7, 2010** from **7:45am-11am** at the Four Points Sheraton BWI as the Baltimore Washington Chamber of Commerce hosts a GovCon Pre-Procurement Fair Session: "Doing Business with MD State Government: An Overview of Procurement Opportunities".

For more info, contact the Baltimore Washington Chamber of Commerce at **301-725-4000**.

## 2010 Choose Civility Symposium: The Role of Civility in Democracy!

Come join in on the dialogue to explore the critical relationship between civility and democracy, moderated by NPR's Korva Coleman. This event will be held on **Wednesday, October 6, 2010**, from **5-9pm** at **The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way**. Following the dialogue, an interactive and experimental workshop will be led by Dr. P.M. Forni, founder of the Civility Initiative at John Hopkins University in which students will develop principles of civility to guide their lives.

For more details, visit [www.choosecivility.org](http://www.choosecivility.org) or call **410-313-7750**. To register for this event, visit [www.choosecivility2010symposium.eventbrite.com](http://www.choosecivility2010symposium.eventbrite.com).

## Cultural Arts Festival hits Oakland Mills!

Join neighbors as we celebrate the Cultural Arts Festival in Oakland Mills Saturday, **October 9, 2010** from **11am-4pm** located in the Oakland Mills Village Center. This event will feature festival food, children's fall crafts, pumpkin decorating, health screenings, craft vendors, and more!

For more information, call **410-730-4610** or email [omcaadmin@columbiavillages.org](mailto:omcaadmin@columbiavillages.org).

## Saturday Math Academy!

The Saturday Math Academy (SMA), sponsored by the BSAP (Black Student Achievement Program) meets every Saturday from 9am-12pm in the Media Center at Oakland Mills High School. SMA is open to ALL Howard County students from grades 4 through 12 who are above, below or on grade level in math.

Students are assigned teachers and receive individual assistance and sometimes work in small groups on identified math skills. Parents should bring interim reports, report cards and any other pertinent information to the registration to help teachers identify specific skills their child may need. Registration will be held **Saturday, October 9, 2010** from **9am-11am** in the **Oakland Mills High School Cafeteria, 9410 Kilimanjaro Road** in Columbia, MD.

For more information, contact Site Coordinator **Andrea Wilborn** at [Andrea.Wilborn@hcpss.org](mailto:Andrea.Wilborn@hcpss.org) or **410-313-1554** or **Jacquelyne Jenkins** at **410-313-7019** ext 226.

## Marching Under the Stars!

The Centennial Marching Eagles will host Long Reach, Marriotts Ridge, Reservoir and other high school bands from throughout the region for an exciting evening of competition and performances. Choreographed routines will include drill teams, colorful props, electric guitars, drum line solos and more!

This event will be held **Saturday, October 9, 2010** beginning at **6pm**. Tickets are **\$10** for adults, **\$5** for students age 9 and up, and **FREE** for ages 8 and under. Tickets can be reserved for a \$2 discount each. Visit [www.centennialmusic.org](http://www.centennialmusic.org) for more information.

## HCC Celebrates 40 Years in Howard County!

Howard Community College (HCC) is 40 years old this year and will welcome the community to the main campus for an open house for all ages to celebrate on **Saturday, October 16, 2010** from **11am-3pm**. Admission is **FREE**.

Faculty will lead engaging and interactive workshops featuring EMT techniques demonstrated on SimMan, the language and culture of the Middle East, culinary demonstrations and yoga techniques, among others.

For more information, call HCC at **410-772-4800**.

## Mortgage Late? DON'T WAIT! Workshop!

You are cordially invited to attend a FREE Workshop **Saturday, October 16, 2010** from **9:30am-1:30pm** held at Howard Community College, The Rouse Company Foundation, Student Service Hall. This event is sponsored by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Howard County Housing Commission, and Freddie Mac.

Learn how foreclosure can be prevented. Talk to housing counselors and fraud investigators. Find out how Maryland's new foreclosure prevention laws affect you. Lastly, meet with loan servicers. What to bring? All paperwork related to current and former mortgages including loan application, settlement paperwork, and lender statements; All foreclosure notices, or threats of foreclosure, if any received; and monthly household budget and pay stubs.

To pre-register for a **FREE** legal consult with an attorney, call the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland at **1-800-396-1274**. For more information, visit [www.mdhope.org](http://www.mdhope.org)

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## Survive the Recession: Education Series!

Join the Department of Housing & Community Development as they put on an education series providing consumers and home buyers with information on what they need to navigate today's economy.

Session 2: Foreclosure, Modifications & Short Sales – Entitlement, Facts & Opinions held **Saturday, October 16, 2010 from 9:30am-12:30pm**, Howard Community College, RCF 400. Meet with lenders on site and learn about the new foreclosure mediation law and the Making Home Affordable streamlined short sale process.

Session 3: Budgeting & Bankruptcy – Debt Management Plan vs. Debt Liquidation held **Saturday, November 13, 2010 from 9:30am-12:30pm**, Howard Community College, RCF 400. Get the information you need to make the best decision for your family.

Seating is limited for both of these sessions, so interested attendees are encouraged to make a reservation by calling **410-313-3441**.

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## BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) holds meetings every 5-6 weeks at the Other Barn, **5851 Robert Oliver Place**, Columbia, MD from **7:30am to 10:30am**.

This event is **FREE** and no RSVP is required to attend the meetings. The following dates have been scheduled and I encourage your business or organization to attend and fully take advantage of BRAC: **October 20, 2010, December 8, 2010, January 12, 2011, and February 23, 2011**.

Not a business owner but still interested in what's going on relating to BRAC? Join us for our Update Meetings typically held the **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month** from **3:30pm to 4:30pm**, **Howard County Gateway Office Building, Suite 500**. These meetings are **FREE** and open to the public; however, seating is limited so please plan to arrive early.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at **410-313-6376** or email [rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov).

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## See the Future of Transportation and Share Your Ideas!

The Transportation Advocates have arranged a special presentation and forum for public input to the Transportation Commission of Howard County. This Commission was established by County Executive Ulman to research and make recommendations on administration and operations of the Howard County bus system, structure for transportation planning and operations in the County and the region, and efficient and sustainable ways to handle public transit and paratransit services.

This meeting will be held **Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 7:30am** at the Bain Center, **5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD 21044**. If you are interested in speaking or would like additional information, please contact **Sharonlee Vogel**, Chair of Transportation Advocates at [sharonleevogel@gmail.com](mailto:sharonleevogel@gmail.com).

## 50+ EXPO: A Premier Event for Mature Adults!

Howard County's Office on Aging will be hosting its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual 50+, a premier event for mature adults bringing together community resources that enrich the lives of our seniors, their families and caregivers. This event will be held **Friday, October 15, 2010 from 9am-4pm** at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Rd, Columbia, MD**.

For more information, please contact the Office on Aging at **410-313-6410**.

## Human Rights Commission Seeks Nominees for 2010 Human Rights Award!

The Human Rights Commission is now seeking nominations for its 2010 Human Rights Award which recognizes outstanding achievement in eliminating discrimination and advancing the human rights for all Howard County residents. The Awards Ceremony will be held **Tuesday, November 16, 2010 7:30pm** at the **Slayton House** in Wilde Lake, **10451 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD**.

To be eligible for this award, nominees may be living or deceased, must have lived in Howard County for at least 10 years, have displayed leadership and achievement within Howard County's human rights movement, and their efforts must have had a lasting impact.

Nomination forms can be obtained by visiting the Office of Human Rights website at [www.howardcountymd.gov/HR/HR\\_HomePage.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/HR/HR_HomePage.htm) or by calling Frank Eastham, Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission at **410-313-6956**.

## HCPSS Transition Fair!

The Special Education Department of the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) will be hosting a transition event **Wednesday, October 20, 2010** from 6pm to 8pm at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD 21044. HCPSS will provide information about options that may be available to young adults receiving special education services as they attend or upon graduation/exiting from school. HCPSS encourages families to attend if their child is 14 years of age or older.

Information in the following areas will be available: Adult agencies, Day programs, Self/Supported employment, funding sources, HCPSS Special Education (Employment) Programs, leisure and recreational opportunities, postsecondary education/training options, residential, social security and transportation. All are invited to attend and advance registration is not required.

For further information, call **410-313-5640**.

## Become a 2011 Rising Star!

The Howard County Arts Council established the Rising Star Award to provide opportunities for emerging performing artists with roots in Howard County and to assist them in the development and practice of their art. This event is open to individual performing artists, ages 18-35, currently or previously living, working, performing regularly, or receiving training in Howard County.

Each finalist will perform one piece at the Arts Council's annual benefit gala, **Celebration of the Arts in Howard County**. The early application deadline with NO FEE is **Friday, October 1, 2010** and the deadline to submit an application (\$10.00 fee) is **Monday, November 1, 2010**. For more information, call **410-313-2790**.

## Get Crafty with OMHS Craft Fair!

Come out and join us for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual OMHS PTSA Craft Fair being held on **Saturday, November 6, 2010** from **10am to 3pm**. Get an early start on your Holiday shopping by visiting the 80+ vendors who are displaying their unique crafts, gifts and jewelry! Stay for lunch at the "Scorps Café" or enjoy the treats available at the Bake Sale!"

Entrance to the Craft Fair is **FREE**. All proceeds from the Craft Fair are used to fund PTSA activities held throughout the school year, including After-Prom and teacher support. Come enjoy the community spirit: Eat Good Food – Catch up with Neighborhood Friends – SHOP til you DROP!

### Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call **410-730-2273** or email [chayakaplan@verizon.net](mailto:chayakaplan@verizon.net)

## Howard County Commission for Women Seeking Hall of Fame Nominations!

Howard County's Commission for Women is seeking nominations for outstanding women to be inducted into the 2011 Women's Hall of Fame. This annual event honors Howard County women who have made significant contributions to Howard County, the State of Maryland or the nation through their profession and/or community service and who are models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders.

The deadline for submission is **Friday, November 12, 2010**. To be eligible for this award, nominees can either be living or deceased and must have lived in Howard County for at least 10 years. Up to five women will be selected for induction at the Commission's annual Women's Hall of Fame ceremony on **Thursday, March 10, 2011**.

To obtain a copy of the nomination form, visit the Department of Citizen Services' website at [www.howardcountymd.gov/CitizenServices](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CitizenServices) or contact the Department either by calling **410-313-6400** or e-mailing [women@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:women@howardcountymd.gov).

## HCGH'S Dazzle Dash!

Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) is preparing for the annual Dazzle Dash on the weekend of **November 20-21, 2010**. This community event celebrates the opening of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Symphony of Lights. For more details, visit [www.hcgh.org/content/dazzledash/default.htm](http://www.hcgh.org/content/dazzledash/default.htm) or call HCGH for more details at **410-740-7840**.

## Deer Management Program for 2010-2011 Season!

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. The hunt will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows:

**Alpha Ridge Park:**

Bow & Shotgun November 16; January 4; February 3

**Blandair Park:**

Bow Hunting October 12; October 26; November 9; November 23; February 2

**David Force Park:**

Bow & Shotgun October 14; October 28; November 18; December 9; January 19

**High Ridge Park:**

Shotgun Hunting October 19; November 3; November 17; December 15

**Middle Patuxent Environmental Area:**

Bow & Shotgun October 21; November 4; November 11; December 16; January 6;  
January 20; February 10

**Schooley Mill Park:**

Shotgun Hunting November 10; December 8; December 22; January 5

**West Friendship Park:**

Shotgun Hunting December 13; December 14

In addition, the Department of Recreation & Parks will host their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wounded Veteran Managed Deer Hunt on **December 13 and 14 at West Friendship Park**. Open to recovering soldiers throughout the region, registration for this hunt is required. For more information or to register for the wounded veterans hunt, contact **Kevin Vest**, Program Coordinator, at [kvest@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kvest@howardcountymd.gov).

## Newest Feature for Maryland's Workforce Exchange!

This week, a new web feature was unveiled on Maryland's Workforce Exchange. The new feature uses web "spidering technology" which collects and combines every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland and creates a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland job seekers.

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State's employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/default.asp?SessionUID=a>



## Economic Indicators Released for Howard County!

The Howard County Government and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce recently released a joint publication describing economic indicators for Howard County and surrounding areas. This information is able to provide advance warning of possible shifts in the local economy that may be helpful in the evaluation of current and future government policies and private sector business decisions.

To view this report, visit [www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOApdfs/September%202010.pdf](http://www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOApdfs/September%202010.pdf).

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library [www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22](http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22)

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379](https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379)

Youth Howard County [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts)

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

## Beware of Driveway Paving Scams!

The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs are warning homeowners seeking driveway improvements of a scam. Unlicensed traveling contractors may attempt to defraud homeowners by offering inexpensive asphalt coating or sealing services, then merely cover the driveway with oil mixed with water or black paint, or other inferior substances that quickly crumble or wash away with the next rainstorm.

Consumers are reminded that they can check whether someone is licensed to perform any service in Maryland regulated by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing by visiting [www.dllr.maryland.gov/license](http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/license). Consumer advice is available from the Maryland Home Improvement Commission at [www.dllr.maryland.gov/license/mhic/mhiccon.shtml](http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/license/mhic/mhiccon.shtml).

In addition, all solicitors going door-to-door in Howard County must first obtain a solicitor license from the Office of Consumer Affairs. Please ask to see their registration card and refuse to do business with anyone who does not produce one. Questions and complaints about solicitors and other consumer issues can be directed to the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 and additional information is available online at [www.howardcountymd.gov/CA/CS\\_ConsumerAffairs.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CA/CS_ConsumerAffairs.htm).

## MD Aviation Administration Grants Available!

Every year, MAA makes available 100% no-match grant funds to communities impacted by the BWI Marshall Airport noise impacts from aircraft takeoffs and landings. The amounts of funds are correlated with takeoffs and landings. These grants are made to certified HOAs, community organizations, etc., not to local government. Projects for funding must be Transportation-related and funds can only be used for construction.

Now is the time for your community to take action! If you are located within a two-mile radius of the BWI airport, you are eligible to submit a request for grant consideration. For more details, please contact the Office of Noise, Real Estate and Land Use Compatibility at 410-859-7375, email [maanoiseabatement@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:maanoiseabatement@mdot.state.md.us) or visit their website online at <http://www.maacommunityrelations.com/content/communityprograms/grantrequirements.php>

I recommend sharing your thoughts and ideas with my office by emailing me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) so that I can continue to advocate on your behalf. If you are eligible, I wish your community success when applying for consideration.

## Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit [www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling\\_chart\\_web.pdf](http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf) or call 410-313-6444.

## Oakland Mills Farmers Market!

Come out and support our local businesses! The Oakland Mills Farmers Market began operating **May 9, 2010** and is located in the parking lot of the Oakland Mills Village Center along Robert Oliver Place. The farmers market will run through **November 21, 2010**.

For additional details, contact the Oakland Mills Village Center at **410-730-4610**.

## The New Water and Sewer Billing System Has Gone Live!

Have you received your new bill and wonder why you've received your bill sooner than expected? Processing a customer's bill sooner allows residents to respond to circumstances such as a dripping faucet or running toilet that may be impacting your water bill. For more details, call **410-313-2058**.

## Secondary Language Arts Advisory Committee Seeks New Members!

We want you! The Secondary Language Arts Advisory Committee is seeking new members. The committee consists of Secondary Language Arts teachers, administrators, students, parents, and other interested community members who meet to advise, support and advocate for the continuous improvement of educational programs in order to ensure that all Howard County students are college and career-ready.

This committee meets four times during the school year and the tentative schedule for next year's meets is as follows: **September 30, 2010, November 18, 2010, February 24, 2011 and April 29, 2011** and will be held from **3:00-4:30pm**.

If you are interested and would like to serve on this committee, contact Elaine Zavaleta, Secondary Language Arts Administrative Secretary at **410-313-6620** or email [Elaine\\_Zavaleta@hcpss.org](mailto:Elaine_Zavaleta@hcpss.org).

### RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call **410-313-6444**.

## At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at **7:30pm** the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call **410-313-6682** or email [tjmallo@verizon.net](mailto:tjmallo@verizon.net).

## Stay Active with Recreation & Parks Fall Activity Guide!

Be on the lookout... The Department of Recreation and Parks has released its Fall 2010 Activity Guide with exciting opportunities for residents to participate in! Guides were sent out in the Columbia Flier, the Laurel Leader, the Sunday Baltimore Sun and the Sunspot newspapers.

You may also access this guide online at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/Seasonal%20Activity%20Guides.htm> or pick up a free copy at our Howard County library branches, community centers and the Recreation and Parks Headquarters. For more information, call **410-313-4700**.



## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

The Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large.

Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website [www.howardcountysafety.org](http://www.howardcountysafety.org). I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

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## Protect Your Belongings & Report Suspicious Behavior!

Neighborhoods have been noticing an increase of vehicle, garage and shed break-ins. I want to take a brief moment to share some ways that even a small change can make a big difference in preventing crime.

To reduce vehicle break-ins, please remove electronics, GPS systems and mounting devices, CDs, and especially loose change or money from plain view. Preferably all items should be removed from your car. Most crimes are ones of opportunity and removing visibility may help reduce these incidents. In addition, please take a moment to lock your home, including your garages and sheds. Residents often leave garage doors open when doing yard work or other activities during the warmer months. If the door to the interior of your home is unlocked including through your garage, it provides an opportunity to burglars.

It is equally important that residents also be aware of their surroundings and report suspicious persons, behaviors and activities to the police. By contacting the police, they can quickly establish possible suspects and patterns of behavior that may be helpful. Please contact the police by calling **911** or the non-emergency number **410-313-2200**.

For additional ways to feel secure in your home and neighborhood, visit [http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Police/PD\\_CommPol.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Police/PD_CommPol.htm).

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## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money. In addition to the information below, I encourage residents to visit our Howard County Government's website at [www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents\\_financialassistance.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents_financialassistance.htm). On this site, you will find resources for a variety of assistance including but not limited to child care, food, energy, water and housing.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at

[www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF\\_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm) or by calling **410-313-4076**.

**Senior Tax Credit:** [www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf)

**Homeowners Tax Credit:** [www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf](http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf)

**Homestead Tax Credit:** [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us)

**Daycare Provider Tax Credit:** [www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf)

**Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:**

[www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf)

**Disabled Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:** [www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf)

**Community Associations Tax Credit:** [www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/CommAssoc.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/CommAssoc.pdf)

**Trash Collection Fee Credit:** [www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/TrashFeeApp.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/TrashFeeApp.pdf)

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit [http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor\\_FraudAlertForm.asp](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp). If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-2005**.

## How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For a list of providers, visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf>. For additional information, contact our Health Department online at [http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health\\_HomePage.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_HomePage.htm) or call **410-313-6300**.

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

## Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council  
District 2  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

[cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov)

[http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC\\_DistrictTwo.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm)

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Whether it's volunteering for an organization or coming out to provide feedback to the County Council, I am honored to be part of a County in which our residents care so much about our communities.

Active involvement is the first step in making positive change in Howard County. At this time, several of our Howard County Board and Commissions still have vacancies. Members are a vital link between our citizens and the officials who represent them and it's so important that we fill these positions so that they may be as effective as possible.

Please visit our website online at [http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC\\_boards\\_vacancies.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_boards_vacancies.htm) for a list of possible vacancies including any special requirements they may have as well as instructions on how to apply.

*"Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off."*

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

## We Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

[http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG\\_Portal\\_PublicMeetings.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm)

## View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

[http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative\\_Pending.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm)

## How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

[http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC\\_Legislative\\_CouncilCalendar.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm)